

HONORING ASHLEY PHILIPS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashley Philips, a young woman of enormous potential whose life was tragically cut much too short this past weekend.

Ashley Philips was a vibrant and ambitious young woman who seemed destined for success in whatever path she chose. She was an excellent student, having earned honors and achieved a superior grade point average at Tarpon Springs High in my hometown, where she participated in the veterinary program. She was a good athlete and ran track at school.

Ashley also was dedicated to her community. She volunteered to help local senior citizens, worked at an area day care, and interned in the city clerk's office in Oldsmar, FL, in my congressional district. She also was the granddaughter of two of my closest friends, Oldsmar Mayor Jerry Beverland and his wife, Wanda, and was to serve as my congressional page this summer. I know they and Ashley's mother, Hope, and brother, Austin, were proud of what she had already accomplished, and looked forward to all that was to come for this remarkable young woman.

Ashley also had daring dreams and lofty goals. She wanted to do so many things, including becoming a veterinarian, lawyer, photographer, and a writer. She no doubt would have achieved all that she had hoped. Her grandfather expressed how everyone feels, noting that she "was a brilliant girl with a brilliant future, snatched away in the blink of an eye."

Mr. Speaker, I grieve for Ashley's family and friends. They are really the only ones who can truly understand how special she was and know how greatly she will be missed. Her friends and family and those with whom she came into contact would surely agree that the world is a much better place for having had her in it, no matter however briefly. I pray that her memory, and the knowledge that she will live in eternal peace, will comfort those who cared for her in this time of great sadness and sorrow.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MANUEL
"MANNY" CORTEZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manuel Cortez for his outstanding service and memorable impact on the city of Las Vegas. Manuel passed away on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at the age of 67.

Manny, a resident of Las Vegas since 1944, was instrumental in making the city one of the world's top vacation destinations. When Manny took over the Convention Authority, Las Vegas had 73,730 hotel and motel rooms and two major convention centers, including the then-new Sands Exposition and Convention Center, which opened its first phase in late 1990. Las Vegas hosted approximately

21.3 million visitors in 1991, an early stage of what became an unprecedented era of local growth following The Mirage's 1989 debut. By the time that boom halted in summer 2000, Las Vegas had added multiple world-class resorts, including Bellagio, Mandalay Bay and The Venetian. Today, the city today boasts 129,475 rooms and three of the nation's largest convention centers.

In the period following the terrorist attacks of September 2001 and the subsequent U.S. economic slowdown, Manny oversaw a highly flexible marketing strategy that helped Las Vegas recover more quickly than many competing destinations. Part of Manny's advertising campaign included the forever popular tag line, "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."

On May 5, 2004, Manny resigned as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, a position he held for 13 years.

Manny served four terms as a Clark County Commissioner, beginning in 1976. He also served on the governing board of the University Medical Center, as well as the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Metropolitan Police Department fiscal affairs boards. He was honored in 1999 by having a local elementary school named for him, and was also named Travel Agent Magazine's United States Person of the Year.

The most important part of Manny's life was his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 45 years, Joanna Cortez; daughters, Cynthia Musgrove and her husband, Dan, and Catherine Cortez Masto and her husband, Paul; grandson, Andrew Musgrove; granddaughter, Christina Musgrove; mother, Mary Cortez; sister, Patricia Snider; aunt, Mary Tapia; and numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward C. Cortez.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Manny Cortez on the floor of the House. He was a good friend who served the residents and guests of Las Vegas with honor, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S
MUSICAL THEATER OF SAN JOSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend the Children's Musical Theater of San Jose, CMT, for winning a National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, grant award. The Children's Musical Theater of San Jose was the only theater company in California—and the only children's theater nationwide—to receive the prestigious American Masterpieces Grant.

The Children's Musical Theater of San Jose trains and educates today's youth so that they will become the artists, patrons, and leaders of tomorrow. CMT combines a commitment to casting all auditioners with the professionalism of a premier children's theater. A vital ingredient to their success has been the leadership and vision of Artistic Director Kevin R. Hauge. Mr. Hauge is as interested in the development of his actors as he is in the production of theater; he continually works to augment the

interpersonal skills and self-confidence of the children while creating immensely popular performances.

I am proud to recognize the Children's Musical Theater for its great success in theater and in the development of its talented young actors. CMT is a deserving recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces Grant. Artistic and creative innovation is part of what makes America a vibrant society, and I commend the Children's Musical Theater for their contribution to San Jose and our Nation's cultural wealth.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF
PEOTONE, IL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Peotone which is celebrating its 150th birthday. The Village of Peotone lies wholly within the 11th Congressional District in Illinois.

In 1856, the Illinois Central Railroad was completed. Land not held by the railroad was to be occupied by settlers. Thus, the Village of Peotone saw its first residents. Two years later the population of the town was 125 people and the first school began to teach classes in 1860. In 1869, you could find dirt streets, several homes and a few businesses. The first Village Board was also formed in 1869.

In 1871, Frederick Rathje and Christoph Elling agreed to construct a windmill to grind the grain from area farmers. In 1872, Frederick's son, H.A. Rathje built the Peotone Windmill. When the mill came into production it provided a variety of grain products such as fine wheat flour, rye, buckwheat flour, and cornmeal. The mill was also a primary source of feed for the local livestock industry. In 1982, Henry's grandson donated the mill and the land upon which it stands to the Village of Peotone. The H.A. Rathje is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Village of Peotone continued to grow and prosper. Many new businesses such as a photo gallery, an opera house, and blacksmith shop opened for business. Today, Peotone is a thriving community with over 3,385 residents and over 60 businesses located within the Village. The Village boasts the tranquility of a country life-style where the streets are wide, curbed and shaded with ancient trees of all varieties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other communities in their own districts which can be shown as an example of living the American dream.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JERRY
HATTER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life, service and example of Pastor Jerry Hatter. Pastor Hatter has found his home and place of service at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, in Ypsilanti, MI.

Born in Haynesville, LA, on July 17, 1945, Pastor Hatter found his calling early in life through the care and love of his aunt and uncle. Baptized at the age of nine, Jerry began his service as a Sunday school teacher and later as an assistant financial secretary for the Mt. Obie C.M.E. Church in Homer, LA. His skills in finance led him to Grambling State University, where he earned an accounting degree in 1968.

Pastor Hatter continued his education as he moved to the Detroit area, earning an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit in 1976, his State of Michigan Real Estate Broker license in 1982 and passing his C.P.A. examination in 1984. The commitment Pastor Hatter has for education has only been surpassed by his religious strength and his service to others in his community.

In 1972, Pastor Hatter joined Oak Grove A.M.E. Church in Detroit, serving that church community for 19 years as a Trustee, member of the male choir and Minister of Business and Finance. Pastor Hatter received his call to serve as a minister in 1986 and was ordained in 1989 at the St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in Detroit. He served as an Associate Minister at Oak Grove Church until 1991.

In August of 1991, Pastor Hatter began his service at Brown Chapel. In the 15 years he has served the congregation and community, Pastor Hatter has established several outreach ministries, opened a child care center, set up the Brown Chapel Foundation public charity and was elected Pastor of the Year by the Michigan Conference Lay Organization in 1995. Along with these great works, Pastor Hatter is also a mentor for the Village Initiative to foster reduction and prevention of youth incarceration, a Chairman of the Fourth District Commission on Evangelism, as well as the president of both the Mid-Michigan A.M.E. Churches Fellowship and the Michigan Conference Minister's Protective League.

Throughout his life, Pastor Jerry Hatter has served others in his community. He has worked hard to put his faith into action, serving as an example of what it means to be a leader and a teacher. I honor Pastor Hatter for his tremendous achievements and his true dedication to his fellow man.

RECOGNIZING PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize three outstanding National Spelling Bee participants from my district: Andy Wade, 14, from Putnam County, WV, James Cook, 13, from Martinsburg, WV and Jonathan Nicklin Allen, 13, from Romney, WV.

2006 marked the 78th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. This event was created by the Louisville Courier-Journal in 1925 with only nine contestants; today it has grown to 274. The National Spelling Bee is sponsored by Scripps Howard, Inc. and is held each year to help students broaden their vocabularies, improve their spelling, and develop correct English usage that will help them throughout their lives. This is the largest and longest running competition to promote education.

Sponsored by the Charleston Gazette, Andy Wade, an eighth grader at Winfield Middle School, advanced to the third round. He has now competed in five spelling bees. James Cook is also an eighth-grader and attends Charles Town Middle School. Sponsored by The Journal in Martinsburg, he advanced to the third round. Jonathan Nicklin Allen, an eighth grader at Romney Middle school, was sponsored by the Hampshire Review in Romney and advanced to the second round.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY AND NILIE SNIDER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Bobby and Nilie Snider. This event will take place on July 14, 2006, but the Snider Family is celebrating the event on June 25, 2006.

Bobby Joe Snider was born on February 6, 1938 in Weaver, AL, to Herman and Gertice Snider. His wife, Nilie Finley Snider, was born on May 7, 1938, in Cedar Springs, AL, to Claude and Nile Finley. Mr. and Mrs. Snider were married on July 14, 1956 at Weaver Methodist Church. Together they raised three children, and Nilie went on to work in retail after the children were grown. Bobby retired from Liberty National as an insurance agent. They have two sons, one son-in-law, one daughter, two daughters-in-law, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Bobby and Nilie are active members of Weaver Baptist Church in Weaver, AL where Bobby has served as a Deacon. On June 25, 2006, a reception will be held in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. I salute this lovely couple on the 50th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COU- RAGEOUS VETERAN ROBERT BROWN OF PLYMOUTH, MN

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of the Greatest Generation who recently passed away.

Minnesota lost a true hero in Robert Brown of Plymouth, MN, of the 3rd Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, Bob was a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. His education at Columbia University was interrupted by World War II. He eagerly enlisted in the Marines and proudly served his nation during World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

Bob retired from the military in 1967 and began a career with Rockwell International that sent him on other missions to promote freedom and economic opportunity all over the world, including Iran and South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Brown was one of our nation's best and brightest. And the legacy of his

courage will live on forever in the hearts of freedom-loving people everywhere.

Lt. Colonel Brown earned many decorations during his 23 years of service to his country: the American Campaign Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the WWII Victory Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Bernidine Brown, Bob's wife of 58 years, as well as sons Michael (Barbara), Stephen (Laurie) and Mark, and grandsons Jacob, Kyle and Travis.

A grateful nation joins them in their mourning and thanks Bob for his courageous service to his country and the cause of freedom.

HONORING JOHN RADER ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions John Rader has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. John has been a wonderful addition to the office and has performed many great services for the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

While my staff and I will certainly miss John's help and enthusiastic attitude, John is returning home to Cookeville. This fall, he will begin his junior year at the University of Tennessee, where he is studying political science and history and is president of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

During his internship, John won over the entire staff with his eagerness and easygoing attitude. Not only has he endeared himself to us as he assisted with countless projects, but he also has endeared himself to countless visitors from Middle Tennessee.

John's family is one I know well, and I consider many members of the previous two generations to be good friends. His family has made many great contributions to their community and state, and I am sure John will continue that legacy.

I hope John has enjoyed his internship and his stay in our Nation's Capital as much as my staff and I have enjoyed having him here. I wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING MARJORIE JOY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marjorie Joy of Oak Lawn, IL, principal of Lee School, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career in education.

Dr. Marjorie Joy is a dynamic influence in the West Lawn community. She has been a leader in the community since she came to Lee School as a seventh grade teacher in 1975. She would later become an eighth